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ARAB LEAGUE. 10 May—The Chiefs of Staff of Arab League States concluded a three-day conference in Cairo. They were understood to have recommended measures for military and financial co-operation against the threat of Israeli aggression.

ARGENTINA. 6 May—Arrests. It was learned that several prominent Radicals, including Dr Roberto Ortiz, son of a former President of Argentina, had been arrested for criticism of the regime. It was stated that Senor Larralde and three other Radicals who had been arrested on 26 April and released the next day, would be prosecuted in the federal court for *deseccato* (i.e. disrespect).

17 May—Visit of Foreign Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs to London (*see Great Britain*).

AUSTRALIA. 7 May—Interim agreement with Japan *re* pearl fishing (*see Japan*).

8 May—Communism. The Minister for Immigration announced a ban on Communists and Communist sympathizers leaving the country. He said it would continue until the Government had a clearer view of developments in the Petrov royal commission and of the latest international developments in Asia.

16 May—South-east Asian Security. Mr Casey, Minister for External Affairs, stated in Melbourne that Australia had agreed to join in an examination of the possibility of a collective security system in south-east Asia and the western Pacific.

17 May—Petrov Case. The Royal Commission on Communist espionage in Australia began its proceedings in Canberra.

AUSTRIA. 15 May—U.S.S.R. Mr Ilyichev, Soviet High Commissioner, called Herr Raab, the Chancellor, and Dr Schärf, the Vice-Chancellor, to his headquarters and accused the Austrian Government of 'supporting hostile and subversive activities' against the Soviet authorities and occupation troops. He demanded 'appropriate measures' by the Government to stop this 'crude violation' of the allied control agreement, failing which the Soviet authorities would take appropriate action themselves 'according to the four-Power decisions'. According to a *Tass* statement Mr Ilyichev also protested against the action of the Minister of the Interior in countermanding Soviet orders to Austrian police to remove an anti-Soviet poster, and accused him of tolerating pro-Fascist organizations propagating the idea of an Anschluss with Germany.

Herr Raab denied the charges and indicated that where relations with the Soviet troops fell short of what was correct had to be judged against nine years of occupation. The Government later issued a statement denying the Soviet allegations in detail and saying that the Government and people had always observed the control agreement.

17 May—Khokhlov Case. The Austrian press agency stated that the Soviet authorities had compelled the Government to drop investiga-

tions into how Nikolai Khokhlov, the Soviet M.V.D. agent (*see p. 283*) had obtained an Austrian passport.

19 May—The National Assembly passed, with only the four Communist deputies dissenting, a resolution endorsing the Chancellor's unqualified rejection of the Russian charges of 15 May. It declared that the Austrian people rejected any union with Germany or any other country, and demanded the fulfilment of the Moscow declaration, the signing of the State treaty, and the withdrawal of occupation troops. The Chancellor said the occupying Powers should allow some further relaxation of the occupation. His final words, 'We shall never bow to injustice,' were received with loud applause.

BELGIUM. 13 May—The Senate passed a motion of confidence in M. Van Acker's Government by 87 votes to 69 with 3 abstentions.

14 May—Military Service. The Cabinet decided to reduce the military service period from twenty-one months to eighteen months immediately.

BURMA. 6 May—U Nu, the Prime Minister, expressed great satisfaction with the results of the Colombo conference of Asian Prime Ministers, especially with the resolution on non-interference in Asian affairs. In reply to a question, he said Burma's neutrality was complete and absolute and the decisions of the conference could therefore not improve it.

7 May—Chinese Nationalist Forces. The evacuation of Chinese Nationalist forces through Myawaddy, in south-east Burma, came to an end, though it was stated that there were still about 500 in the area. The committee of supervision (composed of representatives of the United States, Siam, and Nationalist China) agreed that the cease-fire should end that day (7 May) instead of on 15 May as originally fixed.

CEYLON. 13 May—Tea. The Finance Minister announced the Government's decision to increase the flat rate export duty on tea from 45 cents to 60 cents per lb. It was estimated that the increase would raise revenue during the current financial year by Rs. 18 m. and in the financial year 1954-5 by Rs. 50 m.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE. 18 May—Committee of Ministers. The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe met at Strasbourg, with Dr Adenauer presiding. The committee elected the members of the European Commission on Human Rights (an impartial international body to which complaints could be made about the failure of signatories to fulfil the Convention in their own area).

COUNCIL OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL. 8 May—After a two-day session in Vienna, the Council of the Socialist International issued a statement in which they appealed to the Powers in Geneva to reach a settlement in Korea and Indo-China; expressed the hope that 'freedom and independence' would be re-established in

Council of the Socialist International (*continued*)

Indo-China; emphasized the danger of further Communist expansion in Asia exploiting the 'survival of colonialism'; and welcomed the determination of democratic Asian countries to safeguard their freedom, independence, and peace. They also called for direct Arab-Israel negotiations, for world disarmament under international control, and for the study of measures to counter Communist propaganda 'such as the peace swindle, "unification" movements, and tours of Moscow'.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA. 13 May—It was announced that two persons had been sentenced at Hrádec Kralovce to life imprisonment for espionage and eleven others to varying prison terms.

15 May—Mr Bohumil Lausmann, former head of the Czechoslovak Social Democrat Party and one-time Minister of Justice and Deputy Prime Minister, who had disappeared on 23 December 1953 from his residence in exile at Salzburg, appeared at a press conference in Prague and said that he had decided to return to Czechoslovakia to 'expiate his guilt' and serve the peace campaign led by the Soviet Union. He confessed to diversionist activities during the first two years of Communist rule. He named some of the Czechoslovak leaders in exile and said they were out to re-establish capitalism in Czechoslovakia under American sponsorship. While in America he had been used by the Americans to help recruit refugees for espionage.

Opposition Campaign. On the eve of the national committee (local council) elections, millions of pamphlets were launched over Czechoslovakia by balloons from western Germany. They called for immediate fulfilment of promised concessions and for protection of workers' and peasants' rights.

16 May—Polling took place for local government bodies. Ballot papers bore only the names of National Front candidates.

EGYPT. 6 May—'Al Misri'. The Council of the Revolutionary Command confirmed the sentences on the Fath brothers (*see 4 May*) and ordered the cancellation of Mahmoud Aboul Fath's licence to publish a newspaper.

8 May—**Canal Zone.** A British soldier, Fusilier Edward McKinney, was sentenced to death by a British court martial for the murder of an Egyptian police officer. The court martial added a recommendation to mercy.

11 May—**Consultative Assembly.** The Government issued the text of a draft decree for the formation of a Consultative Assembly which it proposed should be established on 23 July. It provided for an Assembly of 240 representatives appointed by the Cabinet, including seventy-two representing agricultural interests (of whom eighteen would be landowners holding more than ten acres); fifty representatives of the professions; fifty chosen from religious leaders and economic, cultural and social experts; twenty-five trade union representatives; and one representative for each province and governorate. The Assembly's work would be to express an opinion on draft legislation submitted by

the Government. Failure to pronounce a decision within three weeks would be considered as approval. In urgent cases the Government might promulgate laws without consulting the Assembly but the Assembly would be able to debate them later and suggest amendments.

16 May—Pakistan. Sir Zafrullah Khan, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, concluded a short visit to Egypt. The Jordanian Ambassador informed the press that Sir Zafrullah Khan had promised that Pakistan would spare no effort to defend the Holy Places in Palestine and to assist the Arab countries against any Israeli aggression.

17 May—Canal Zone. Five armed Egyptians held up two British civilians near Suez and fired at and slightly injured one of them.

18 May—Saudi Arabian Oil. The Saudi Arabian Minister of Commerce, Mohamed Reza, who was passing through Cairo on his way to Hamburg for the launching of a 47,000 ton oil tanker for the Saudi Arabian Maritime Company, informed Egyptian reporters that the company would be financed up to 75 per cent by Mr Onassis and the remaining 25 per cent by his Government. He said that Saudi Arabia aimed at a tanker fleet of 500,000 tons (*see also Great Britain, 12 May*).

19 May—The Revolutionary Council tribunal sentenced Abdul Kheir Nagib, editor of the defunct extremist weekly *Al Goumhour Al Misri*, to fifteen years' imprisonment and loss of civil rights for activity against the regime, aiding the Communists, and blackmail.

British statement on Canal Zone incidents (*see Great Britain*).

EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY. 12 May—In a report to the Assembly, M. Monnet, president of the High Authority, said that the Community had suppressed quota restrictions, customs duties, and exchange controls, and all discriminatory railway tariffs had been removed. After a year of operation exchanges between the six member countries had increased, coal production had remained constant, within a margin of 1 per cent, at the 1952 level, imports had been reduced, and exports and stocks held at the mines increased. He referred to the advantageous conditions of the loan agreement with the United States and said that the High Authority was now able to help in financing re-equipment in member countries. He maintained that members had obtained a renewal of credit, more favourable financial conditions, and a more productive use of resources than they could have achieved separately.

FRANCE. 6 May—Confidence Vote. M. Laniel's Government secured the vote of confidence for which he had asked on a motion to postpone a debate on Indo-China until after the Geneva Conference. The vote was 311 to 262 with about 50 abstentions. The Communists, Socialists, and some Gaullists voted against the Government.

7 May—Indo-China: Fall of Dien Bien Phu. M. Laniel announced to the National Assembly that Dien Bien Phu had fallen. He said the necessary steps had been taken to ensure that the strength of the expeditionary force was not diminished, and the news would not divert France from the course she intended to follow at the Geneva conference.

France (continued)

Any settlement must include the provisions necessary for the safeguarding of French Union troops and the freedom of the peoples of whose independence France was the protector. M. Laniel concluded with an expression of sympathy for the families of the victims and a declaration that universal conscience should dictate to the enemy measures of clemency towards the wounded. All deputies except the Communists and their allies then rose to their feet while the president of the Assembly paid a tribute and proclaimed a recess as a token of respect and grief.

The Socialist Party issued a statement criticizing the 'errors of those whose policies led to this sorrowful outcome' and denouncing the Communists for approving the refusal of the Viet-Minh to allow the evacuation of the wounded from Dien Bien Phu and for refusing to join in the homage paid to the defenders.

Western Note to Russia (*see U.S.S.R.*).

8 May—Indo-China. The Emperor Bao Dai sent a message to Vietnam and to France on the occasion of the fall of Dien Bien Phu. In it he said: 'Now that France has recognized Vietnam independence no one can have any more doubts about the disinterested nobility of the French struggle for the defence of the Vietnam people and of the free world.'

10 May—U.S.S.R. M. Laniel informed the Soviet Ambassador of the Government's decision to postpone indefinitely the performances which had been arranged to take place at the Paris Opera by dancers of the Moscow and Leningrad ballets. It was understood that the reason for the decision was the fear of hostile demonstrations following the fall of Dien Bien Phu.

11 May—Indo-China. M. Laniel proposed in the Assembly that a parliamentary committee (excluding only the Communists and their associates who had refused to pay a tribute to the defenders of Dien Bien Phu) should be appointed to examine the Dien Bien Phu episode. Succeeding speakers, however, many of whom were strongly critical of the Government, demanded an immediate debate on Indo-China, and M. Laniel thereupon announced that he would again make the issue a question of confidence.

13 May—Vote of Confidence. The Government secured a vote of confidence by a majority of two—289 to 287—on the motion to postpone a debate on Indo-China. Twenty-nine Gaullists voted for the Government and forty-two against.

In his speech before the vote M. Laniel defended the choice of Dien Bien Phu as a base and said that the French High Command had been surprised by an entirely new Viet-Minh army with heavy fire power including about 200 anti-aircraft guns. Reinforcement of the garrison by air was the only measure open to the High Command and every aircraft available had been used to the full and the air force reinforced by 40 per cent. He claimed that everything possible had been done once the attack had begun, and that it had been impossible to foresee the type of attack. The reverse, he said, should neither be minimized nor exaggerated. The war was continuing, and nothing must be done to

weaken Gen. Navarre's authority. The Government had already taken measures to provide him with the means, including several battalions of troops, to carry on. Turning to the Geneva conference, M. Laniel said it depended on the Chamber whether the negotiations there were to continue. As Prime Minister he had a duty to emphasize the risks involved in provoking a crisis which would have no immediate solution. Such a step would serve the spirit of capitulation and would encourage the Viet-Minh.

14 May—French Settlements in India. French and Indian delegates began a conference on the French settlements in India.

15 May—Indo-China. The Committee of National Defence announced that it had been decided to send Gen. Ely, Chief of Staff, and two other generals to Indo-China 'to deliver the Government's instructions to Gen. Navarre and to give him their comments on them'.

Reports of Franco-U.S. discussions on Indo-China (see *Geneva Conference*).

18 May—Indo-China. M. Maurice Schumann, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, saw the British and Australian Ambassadors. The Quai d'Orsay stated later that he had cleared up any doubts or anxieties about current plans for discussions between France and the United States on Indo-China.

GENEVA CONFERENCE ON KOREA AND INDO-CHINA.

7 May—Korea. Mr Garcia (Philippines) stated that his Government desired to withdraw troops from Korea, but only with adequate guarantees against a renewal of aggression. He attacked the 'downright presumption' of Communist China in claiming the leadership of Asia when Asian countries had joined the overwhelming majority of the United Nations in finding that Communist China and North Korea were aggressors. He said that Asia must guard not only against the old-style colonialism but also 'against the new imperialism which is world Communism'. He concluded with a defence of the United States which, he declared, by granting his country independence in 1946 had thereby opened the great era of the liberation of all Asia.

Mr Webb (New Zealand) defended the United States against charges of aggression, denied the Communist claim that the United Nations was no longer neutral, and spoke of China's inconsistency in claiming membership of the United Nations while at the same time she attacked its actions and failed to live up to its principles. He pointed out that under the North Korean proposals, North and South Korea, in spite of the disparity of population, would be equally represented on the proposed commission, and he said there would have to be adequate arrangements for impartial supervision, both of elections and of the Korean frontiers. He thought that a way could be found of overcoming the understandable fears of South Koreans to join in any single Government with the North Koreans, but he also emphasized that 'all of us recognize China's need, and the Soviet Union's need, for security'.

Mr Dulles's proposals (see *United States*).

8 May—Indo-China. Representatives of Britain, France, United

Geneva Conference on Korea and Indo-China (*continued*)

States, Russia, China, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Viet-Minh began discussion of Indo-China. Mr Eden announced that it had been agreed that he and Mr Molotov would preside on alternate days during the discussion.

M. Bidault (France), after a reference to his pride and sorrow at the fall of Dien Bien Phu, said that the war in Indo-China had been imposed on France, and he declared that though it had been claimed that the Russian revolution of 1917 had been the progenitor of freedom in Asia, the so-called People's Democracies had all been established either by civil war or after foreign occupation. There was no question now of fighting for independence in Indo-China. That had been accorded and the three States recognized by thirty-five free countries, but the Viet-Minh, supported by other Communist Powers, were still trying to grasp power—even in Cambodia and Laos. The French forces were not engaged in an anti-Communist crusade; their action was defensive.

As a basis for a settlement he proposed: (1) the grouping of regular units in zones determined by the conference; (2) the disarmament of elements which were neither in the army nor concerned with the maintenance of order; (3) the freeing of all prisoners and civil internees; (4) the supervision of those actions by international commissions; and (5) a cease-fire as soon as agreement on these lines had been reached. These terms would apply only to Vietnam. Regular and irregular Viet-Minh units would have to be withdrawn altogether from Laos and Cambodia. In all three States the guarantors of the decisions reached would be the countries participating in the Geneva conference.

Mr Pham Van Dong (Viet-Minh) proposed that the 'Khmer and Pathet Lao resistance governments', which he claimed had liberated vast areas of national territory in Cambodia and Laos respectively, should be represented at the conference.

Mr Bedell Smith (United States) urged the immediate rejection of the Viet-Minh proposal. An inconclusive debate followed.

10 May—Indo-China. Mr Pham Van Dong (Viet-Minh) announced that his Government was ready to authorize the evacuation of the seriously wounded prisoners from Dien Bien Phu and suggested that the two Commands should discuss practical measures for such evacuation. M. Bidault (France) said that although the proposal was late he was prepared to accept it and he agreed that the Commands should meet. Mr Dong traced the history of Vietnam since 1945, claiming that the French action in Saigon in September 1945 was the beginning of the 'aggressive war'. He said that even after full-scale fighting had broken out, the Viet-Minh had been anxious to negotiate, but the French terms had amounted to complete surrender. The French had then turned to the setting up of an alternative Government. Mr Dong went on to assert that the Americans had been associated with French plans from the start, and that their aim had been gradually to oust the French from Indo-China, turn the country into an American colony, and make it a base for the conquest of the countries of south-east Asia. He described the economic and social achievements of the Viet-Minh,

and claimed that they controlled three-quarters of the country. He also claimed that the resistance governments of Khmer and Pathet Lao were truly representative of their peoples, and he dismissed the Vietnam Government as being representative only of itself and 'those who create and dissolve it'.

He put forward the following eight-point proposal for a settlement:

- (1) recognition by France of the independence of Vietnam, Khmer, and Pathet Lao; (2) withdrawal of all foreign troops from the three States, leaving French troops at as few concentration points as possible; (3) elections in the three States, with the Governments of both sides joining in advisory conferences, 'under conditions securing freedom of activity for patriotic parties, groups, and social organizations', to establish a unified Government in each State, the elections being supervised by local commissions and the Governments on both sides continuing in the meanwhile to administer their areas until the ending of hostilities; (4) a declaration by Viet-Minh (and also, it was hoped, by Khmer and Pathet Lao) of readiness to examine the question of entry into the French Union; (5) recognition of the economic and cultural interests of France in the three States; (6) no prosecution by either side of collaborators; (7) mutual exchange of prisoners; (8) cessation of hostilities before the carrying out of the aforementioned measures and agreement between France and the three States for (a) a cease-fire; (b) cessation of entry from abroad of new military units or arms, and (c) mixed commissions of the belligerents to control the agreement. Mr Dong concluded with a demand for the withdrawal of United States missions. He said that M. Bidault's proposals did not take into account the actual military situation.

The representatives of Laos and Cambodia both denied that there were liberation movements and resistance governments in their countries. They supported broadly the French proposals for a settlement, including the total withdrawal of Viet-Minh forces from their countries.

Mr Eden (Britain) said he would reserve judgment on the Viet-Minh proposals. He repudiated Mr Dong's charges against the United States, saying that it was a travesty of truth to suggest that America threatened the liberty and independence of other nations. No one in the world had been enslaved by the United States. He considered M. Bidault's proposals were a constructive effort to meet a most difficult situation and he hoped the conference would study them at once. A simple cease-fire was quite impracticable and could not possibly lead to a peaceful solution.

Mr Bedell Smith (United States) said that his country had watched with sympathy the development of the three States of Indo-China to independence, and had given help because she wished to assist any people determined to maintain its liberty and independence. He welcomed the French proposals as being consistent with the general principles which should be applied, but he reserved judgment on the proposal for a guarantee of the settlement. He also invited the Vietnamese delegation to give its views on a political settlement.

Geneva Conference on Korea and Indo-China (continued)

11 May—Korea. Mr Molotov (U.S.S.R.) insisted that the withdrawal of foreign troops from Korea must precede elections, but he conceded that the period of six months was subject to 'appropriate agreement'. He also insisted that the proposed all-Korea commission must include democratic organizations of both North and South Korea. He declared that the South Korean-U.S. pact was one of the main obstacles to Korean unification, and he also attacked the western plans for a 'new military bloc against the peoples of south-east Asia', declaring that the only security for Asia was a collective security of Asian States. He argued that U.N. action in Korea was 'illegal', because it was decided without the presence of Russia and Communist China at the Security Council, and he maintained that the United States' refusal to recognize Peking was contrary to the U.N. Charter which provided for the special responsibility of the five great Powers for strengthening peace and security.

M. Spaak (Belgium) said the Communists were wasting time in trying dividing tactics. Internationally supervised elections were the only solution to the Korean problem.

12 May—Indo-China. Mr Nguyen Quoc Dinh (Vietnam) revealed the terms of the two treaties envisaged in the Franco-Vietnam declaration of 28 April (*see p. 278*). Under the treaty of independence France would agree to recognize Vietnam as an entirely independent and sovereign State vested with all the competence recognized by international law. The second treaty, of association, provided for the setting-up of a High Council, under the chairmanship of the President of the French Union, for the development of co-operation. It also provided for a court of arbitration to decide juridical differences concerning interpretation of the treaty. Mr Dinh said talks were proceeding in Paris for the conclusion of annexes to the treaties. He expected them to be completed within a few days and said that then national independence would have been achieved. Thus 'the conflict being waged by Viet-Minh has no meaning'.

Mr Dinh then submitted the Vietnam proposals for a settlement in Indo-China. On the military side he said his delegation were ready to examine any proposals provided (1) they included sufficient guarantees to ensure peace and to prevent a resumption of aggression; (2) they did not lead to partition of Vietnam territory; and (3) the agreed measures were ensured by international control. On the political side he proposed that relations with France should be regulated in accordance with the Franco-Vietnam declaration of 28 April, and in regard to internal arrangements he put forward the following points: (1) there must be recognition of the State of Vietnam under the Emperor Bao Dai as the only State legally qualified to represent the territory; (2) recognition of the principle of a single national Vietnamese army; (he suggested that there might be an arrangement to regulate the status of Viet-Minh troops within the framework of the legal army); (3) free elections throughout Vietnam to be conducted under international control through the United Nations, once the Security Council had ascertained

that the authority of the State and conditions of freedom had been established; (4) a representative Government under the aegis of the Emperor Bao Dai to be set up in accordance with the results of the elections; (5) no reprisals against collaborators with the Viet-Minh; (6) an international guarantee of the political and territorial integrity of the State of Vietnam; (7) help from friendly nations in the development of national resources and in the raising of the living standard.

Mr Chou En-lai (China) supported the Viet-Minh proposals and said that those of M. Bidault, 'still those of a colonial ruler', ignored the power and influence of Viet-Minh. He declared that China had no choice but to pay close attention to this war in a neighbouring country and to the threat of its extension, for it was plain that the aim of U.S. intervention in Indo-China was to seize the whole country and use it as a base for aggression against the whole of south-east Asia. This was in line with the American aim to prepare a world war and establish domination over the whole world. Mr Chou En-lai described Chinese intervention in Indo-China as an American fiction and slander designed to cover up their own intervention. He again urged Asian nations to compose their differences by negotiation and not by force.

Mr Eden asked: (1) Was it agreed that troops on both sides should be withdrawn to specified areas? (2) Was it accepted that Laos and Cambodia should be treated in a special category and that Viet-Minh forces should be withdrawn from them? (3) Who was to work out the concentration areas for Vietnam? Was it to be the Commanders-in-Chief with reference back to the conference? (4) Was it agreed that after the concentration of regular troops irregulars should be disarmed? (5) Was there agreement that there should be international supervision, and, if so, in what form? He said the British delegation favoured United Nations supervision and he recalled that the five Asian Prime Ministers at their recent meeting at Colombo had favoured 'the use of the good offices and machinery of the United Nations'.

Mr Bedell Smith (United States) supported the Vietnam proposals and welcomed the pertinent questions of Mr Eden.

The Cambodian Foreign Minister announced that he had received a telegram from his Government stating that a district sub-prefect had been attacked and killed by Viet-Minh forces on 10 May and that at the same time a hospital had been attacked and a priest killed. Mr Molotov (U.S.S.R.) said he had no confidence in the authenticity of the telegram.

13 May—Korea. The conference reverted to discussion of Korea. M. Bidault said there were two principles for a Korean settlement which France considered of fundamental importance: (1) any reunification plan must contain a genuine and effective guarantee that the representation of the people on any bodies which might be set up should be proportionate to the numbers of citizens in both parts of the country; (2) the presence of neutral observers invested with adequate powers would be necessary to supervise the elections.

Mr Eden said the fact that the United States had borne the major share in the Korean war was a measure not of their imperialism but of

Geneva Conference on Korea and Indo-China (*continued*)

their loyalty to the United Nations. He pointed out that the prisoner of war question had been settled in accordance with the Geneva Convention and the armistice agreement, and said the British Government regarded the matter as settled. Turning to the subject of national feeling in Asia, he repudiated the suggestion that such feeling had been ignored or opposed by Britain, and pointed to the free association of India, Pakistan, and Ceylon in the Commonwealth and to the membership of various Asian countries in the Colombo plan.

As other speakers had already done, Mr Eden pointed out that the North Korean proposals ignored the fact that South Korea had a much larger population, and also the bitter differences which divided the two parts. They could never lead to a single independent and democratic Korean Government. The two sides would never agree. In the meantime foreign forces would have been withdrawn. The result could only be chaos and fresh hostilities. As in the Russian proposals for German elections, there was no provision for international supervision of the elections and they would therefore be 'free in name but rigged in fact'.

Mr Eden proposed the following principles as a basis for agreement:

- (1) elections should be held for the formation of an all-Korean Government;
- (2) these elections should truly reflect the people's will, taking account of the distribution of the population between North and South;
- (3) they should be based on universal adult suffrage and the secret ballot and should be held as soon as possible in conditions of genuine freedom;
- (4) they must be internationally supervised, and in the British view this supervision should be conducted under the auspices of the United Nations; the countries selected need not necessarily be those who had taken part in the Korea war; there could be a panel of countries acceptable to the conference;
- (5) any plan for a Korean settlement must provide the conditions in which foreign troops could be withdrawn; the mission of U.N. troops in the area was to establish peace and security, and as soon as that had been achieved they would be withdrawn.

14 May—Indo-China. Mr Molotov described the war in Indo-China as a colonial war and he said that U.S. aid in financing the war was such that one could already speak of direct U.S. intervention. The conference's task was to secure the early cessation of hostilities and at the same time an agreement that would satisfy the people's legitimate demands for independence and democratic rights. In addition to the four main Viet-Minh proposals, he said it would be necessary to agree on such questions as the exchange of prisoners and the non-prosecution of those who had collaborated with the other side during the war. He said that a weakness of the French proposals was that they did not deal with political problems, and he could not completely agree with the proposal that any agreement reached should be guaranteed by the Powers taking part in the conference and that any violation should lead to immediate consultation on either individual or collective measures. In his view it should lead only to collective action. In place of the Viet-Minh proposal for joint commissions of representatives of the belligerents to

supervise the armistice, he proposed that supervision should be entrusted to a neutral nations supervisory commission.

M. Bidault drew a distinction between Vietnam and the other two States, pointing out that in Laos and Cambodia, after the grant of independence, free elections had taken place. Franco-Laotian relations had been settled through an agreement and Franco-Cambodian relations were about to be settled in the same way. The only question outstanding was that of the withdrawal of foreign troops, which meant the forces of the Viet-Minh. The French Government did not consider its forces as foreign troops as Laos and Cambodia were associated in the French Union. The Government would nevertheless be ready, in consultation with other interested governments, in particular with the Laotian and Cambodian Governments, to recall its own troops if the invading forces were also withdrawn.

In Vietnam, M. Bidault said, the movement of French troops depended on the course of the fighting and would continue to do so until peace was established. Once peace was established, the French Government did not propose to maintain troops in Vietnam against the will of the legal Government. M. Bidault emphasized that a political arrangement should not be made the precondition for a military arrangement. The military arrangement in Vietnam should be worked out by the Commands on the spot. He suggested that a cease-fire was easier to arrange in Laos and Cambodia than in Vietnam, and could therefore come about in Laos and Cambodia first. In Vietnam the cease-fire might come into force progressively, in one region after another.

M. Bidault ended by replying to the five questions put by Mr Eden on 12 May. First, he agreed to the principle that the troops should be withdrawn to zones to be defined by agreement. Secondly, Cambodia and Laos should be treated as a separate problem, and the Viet-Minh troops should be withdrawn from both. Thirdly, he thought the conference should decide the zones, leaving the commanders on the spot to work out details. Fourthly, irregulars should be disarmed; in Vietnam the manner in which this was carried out should depend on the way in which the regular forces were to be grouped in zones. Lastly, there should be international control of the arrangements, but he would examine any proposals, and if the principle of international control was accepted there might be in Vietnam mixed bodies working under the authority of international commissions.

Dien Bien Phu Wounded. M. Bidault sent a letter to Mr Molotov in which he pointed out that among the 450 wounded selected by the Viet-Minh commander, Gen. Giap, to be evacuated from Dien Bien Phu there were no Vietnamese. He asked Mr Molotov to impress on the Viet-Minh Foreign Minister that there should be no discrimination in choosing those to be evacuated. He also pointed out that the conditions which the Viet-Minh Command were seeking to lay down for the evacuation would give it military advantages. Mr Bedell Smith also sent a letter to Mr Molotov taking up these two points and asking him to urge the Viet-Minh delegation to instruct its Command to carry out the evacuation in accordance with the agreement. Mr Molotov said in his

Geneva Conference on Korea and Indo-China (*continued*)

reply to M. Bidault that he had passed on the message, but he suggested that M. Bidault should take up the matter himself with the Viet-Minh delegation.

A copy of M. Bidault's letter was also sent to Mr Eden, the other chairman, who forwarded it to Mr Pham Van Dong and asked him if he would like to reply to it when the conference next discussed Indo-China.

15 May—Following a private discussion between Mr Eden and Mr Bedell Smith, a British spokesman stated that Mr Eden had gone to see Mr Bedell Smith 'to inquire about press reports on Indo-China'. The reports, emanating from Washington, had indicated that the French and U.S. Governments had opened talks to define the conditions in which U.S. intervention in Indo-China might take place, failing a settlement, or in case the French were faced meanwhile with grave military difficulties. Mr Eden and Mr Bedell Smith were stated to have had 'a full and frank discussion'.

Mr Eden received a letter from Mr Casey, Australian Minister for External Affairs, proposing that five-Power staff talks between Britain, France, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand should be begun to review the Indo-China situation.

Statement by Mr Nehru, Indian Prime Minister on Indo-China (*see India*).

Mr Lei Jen-min, Chinese deputy Minister for Foreign Trade, held a press conference at which he said that the restoration and expansion of normal trade with China would contribute to the further relaxation of international tension. The Chinese delegation was ready to consider any concrete proposals. China was anxious to import capital equipment and raw materials for her development plans.

17 May—Indo-China. The conference discussed Indo-China in private restricted session.

Mr Dong said in reply to Mr Eden (*see 14 May*) that the evacuation of wounded from Dien Bien Phu should be discussed in the field.

Korea. The U.S. delegation published a letter sent to the Military Armistice Commission by the Swedish and Swiss members of the Korean Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission. It complained that the commission had been prevented by its Czechoslovak and Polish members from effectively carrying out its tasks and stated that whereas the United Nations Command had 'thrown itself open to full control by the United Nations inspection teams . . .' which were thus free to carry out the necessary checks, the North Korean and Chinese forces had 'adopted a rigid procedure' and the teams were unable to check efficiently because of the stand taken by the Czechoslovak and Polish members who, 'thanks to their veto power, have kept spot check controls to a bare minimum. The Swiss and Swedish delegates also complained that the North Koreans and Chinese only reported the movement of men and materials from two of the five specified ports of entry. The Polish and Czechoslovak members had refused to allow spot checks at any of the three other ports.

18 May—Indo-China. The conference held a second restricted session on Indo-China.

A Viet-Minh spokesman told a press conference that the French were 'sabotaging' the agreement for the evacuation of wounded from Dien Bien Phu. He said that when route 41 was bombed by the French, fifteen French Union wounded had been killed.

The French delegation told the press in reply that there had been no bombing of route 41 between 13 May and 17 May and that during that time only eleven wounded had been returned.

Speech by Mr Nehru on Korea and Indo-China (*see India*).

19 May—The conference again discussed Indo-China in restricted session. It was afterwards reported that the question of whether Laos and Cambodia should be treated separately from Vietnam was again discussed and that no agreement was reached. Mr Molotov had suggested passing on to the next item—proposals for the withdrawal of troops—but it was reported that this had been opposed by Mr Bedell Smith and by the Laotian and Cambodian delegations.

GERMANY. 6 May—West Germany. Federal Budget. The *Bundestag* completed the third reading of the federal budget.

East Germany. The Socialist Unity Party announced its intention to take part in the elections to the west Berlin House of Representatives in December.

9 May—Anglo-German Economic Talks. Following two-day talks between Mr Butler, U.K. Finance Minister, and west German Ministers, a communiqué was issued which stated that there had been discussions on the proposals for the extension of the European Payments Union, put forward in O.E.E.C., and talks had also been held on 'the objective, which both Governments share, to move to a freer world system of trade and payments. Both sides were agreed that progress to this end was conditional upon greater freedom in trade and payments relations and that convertibility was not an end in itself but a means to secure a higher and more stable level of world trade. It was stated that the discussions revealed a close identity of views on the steps necessary to bring about the removal of artificial incentives to exporters. There was agreement that close contact would be maintained on all the matters discussed.

10 May—Berlin. The west Berlin police reported that Frau Gläske, wife of Herr Heinz Gläske, who had disappeared from west Berlin with Dr Truchnovič on 14 April, had herself disappeared from her home in west Berlin. The city authorities offered a reward of 100,000 marks for information which would clarify the case.

12 May—East Germany. Published results of the economic plan for the first quarter of 1954 showed that gross production had reached 97 per cent of the planned figure. During the period wages rose on average by 8.6 per cent and productivity by 5.9 per cent.

14 May—East Germany. The east German Foreign Ministry published regulations stating that foreign nationals, including Soviet citizens, wishing to travel in east Germany should apply for visas in the

Germany (continued)

consular offices of the 'German Democratic Republic' in the country where they happened to be. No mention was made of nationals of the three western Powers.

The east German authorities staged a congress, which was attended by delegates from both east and west Germany, the aim of which was to take decisive steps on the early holding of a plebiscite on the issues of E.D.C. or a peace treaty. A suggestion by Professor Norden that a message should be sent to all Germans in the Foreign Legion to desert to the Viet-Minh forces was adopted with acclamation.

15 May—East Germany. Eight persons were sentenced by an east Berlin court to terms of imprisonment of up to ten years for espionage.

17 May—West Germany. Relations with Russia. The national executive of the Free Democratic Party passed a resolution supporting a proposal of Dr Pfeleiderer, a Free Democratic deputy, that a parliamentary delegation should go to Russia with a view to examining the question of establishing diplomatic relations with Russia.

18 May—East German Church Affairs. Dr Dibelius, Bishop of Berlin, drew attention, in an address to his diocesan synod, to difficulties which the Evangelical Church had continued to experience since the agreement with the east German Government in June 1953. He mentioned the Government's refusal to allow the Church tax to be collected by the customary method, and bureaucratic interference with the Church's activities at subordinate levels of government.

19 May—West Germany. Dr Seebohm, west German Minister of Transport, urged the early restoration of German civil air rights in a speech in Berlin. He found it 'incomprehensible' that all the Bonn conventions should have remained invalid for two years because one out of three western Powers sought to avoid ratification.

War Criminals. The British High Commissioner announced that war criminals in Werl prison had been moved to a separate part of the prison, thereby facilitating a modification in their regulations which it was hoped would improve their morale.

GIBRALTAR. 10 May—The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh arrived on a one-day visit to Gibraltar in the course of their Commonwealth tour. The Spanish frontier was closed by the Spanish authorities to Spanish workers in Gibraltar.

GREAT BRITAIN. 7 May—Colonial Development Corporation. The Corporation published its annual report 1952-3 (Stationery Office, 2s.).

Western Note to Russia (*see U.S.S.R.*).

U.S.S.R. The Foreign Office informed the Soviet Ambassador that two of his assistant military attachés—Major Ivan Pupyshev and Major Andrei Gudkov—had been declared *persona non grata* and ordered to leave Britain because they had attempted to engage in espionage.

9 May—Anglo-German financial talks (*see Great Britain*).

10 May—Soviet Armed Strength. In a written parliamentary reply,

Mr Nutting, Under-Secretary, Foreign Office, said that Soviet manpower in naval forces had increased from 600,000 in 1951 to 750,000; the number of submarines had increased during the same period from 300 to about 350. Manpower in ground forces had remained at about 3,200,000 and the number of divisions at about 175. The Soviet Army had more than 30,000 tanks, an increase of 20 per cent since 1951. Manpower in the satellite and east German armies had risen by about 140,000 since 1951 to about 1,210,000 and there were now about eighty divisions, almost double the number in 1947. Soviet strength in air force manpower had remained at about 800,000 and the number of aircraft at 19,000-20,000. The proportion of jet-propelled fighters had risen from 20 per cent in 1951 to nearly 100 per cent, and of jet-propelled light bombers to 66½ per cent. In the satellites and east Germany air force manpower had increased from 50,000 in 1951 to nearly 90,000 and the total air strength from 2,000 to almost 4,000 aircraft. About half were jet fighters.

Indo-China. Replying to a question in Parliament regarding staff talks with America, France, and other countries concerning Indo-China, Mr Selwyn Lloyd, Minister of State, Foreign Office, said that the existing military agencies had been examining and would continue to examine jointly the various contingencies with which they might be faced. The five-Power Staff Agency was one such organization. Any examinations undertaken were without commitment.

11 May—Trieste. A Foreign Office spokesman deplored the public announcement of President Tito's plan for a Trieste settlement (*see Yugoslavia*). He said the Foreign Office considered that a settlement would not be assisted by public pronouncements.

12 May—Saudi Arabian Oil. It was stated that the Chamber of Shipping had made representations to the Ministry of Transport concerning an agreement under which Mr A. S. Onassis, a ship-owner, had secured the right to transport all Saudi Arabian oil not shipped by tankers of the four U.S. companies associated in Aramco. A royal decree confirming the agreement was reported to have been published in the Saudi Arabian official *Gazette* on 23 April. According to its terms Aramco would be precluded from enlarging its fleet or replacing vessels going out of service. Ships of other flags (mainly U.K., Danish, Norwegian, and Italian) would be precluded from taking part in the traffic.

British Honduras. Replying to a question in the House, Mr Lyttelton, Colonial Secretary, stated that the total amount of grants in aid and special gifts by the British taxpayers to British Honduras since 1931 amounted to £3,675,344.

Kenya. In reply to a question in Parliament, Mr Lyttelton said the main operation in Nairobi had been completed; about 30,000 persons had been picked up for examination of whom about 19,000 had been detained for further screening. In addition, 4,500 had been detained on individual detention orders and 9,200 dependent women and children had been repatriated to the reserves. The operation had been most successful. Hooliganism in the city had ceased and the boycotts enforced

Great Britain (*continued*)

by terrorists on buses, beer, and tobacco had been broken. There had been a spectacular reduction in crime and law-abiding Africans had been heartened and reassured.

13 May—Russian demand for withdrawal of diplomat (*see U.S.S.R.*).

Bank Rate. The Bank of England reduced the bank rate from $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to 3 per cent.

Five-Power disarmament talks (*see United Nations, Disarmament Commission*).

15 May—Royal Tour. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh returned from their six months' tour of Commonwealth countries.

16 May—Article by Gen. Franco on Gibraltar (*see Spain*).

17 May—Geneva Conference and South-east Asian Security. Sir Winston Churchill, Prime Minister, answering parliamentary questions, reiterated that final decisions could not be taken in regard to a south-east Asia security pact until the results of the Geneva conference were known. Meanwhile the Government had not embarked on any negotiation involving commitments. These problems of future policy were quite distinct from the question of the examinations undertaken without commitment by existing military agencies, referred to by the Minister of State on 10 May. They were equally distinct from the conversations which, as reported in the press, had been in progress during the past few days between the United States and French Governments about the situation in Indo-China. In considering all these matters the closest touch was being maintained with the Governments of India, Pakistan, Ceylon, and Burma. There was also, of course, intimate consultation with the Canadian, Australian, and New Zealand Governments. When the outcome of the Geneva conference was clearer they would be ready to examine a system of collective security and defence in south-east Asia and the western Pacific within the framework of the United Nations. But the immediate task was to reach a settlement at Geneva and the Government was resolved to do their utmost to achieve this aim and to exercise their influence to ensure that any acceptable settlement should be backed by effective international guarantees.

Argentina. Dr Jeronimo Remorino, Argentine Foreign Minister, and Dr Gomez Morales, Minister of Economic Affairs, arrived in London to review Anglo-Argentine trade and financial relations.

18 May—Singapore. Despatches between Mr Lyttelton, Colonial Secretary, and Sir John Nicoll, Governor of Singapore, were published. They signified the Government's agreement with the general recommendations of the Rendel commission on the future constitution of Singapore (*see p. 151*) and Mr Lyttelton's view that there should be no delay in bringing it into operation.

19 May—Russian contract for textile machinery (*see U.S.S.R.*).

Tanganyika. The Government published as a White Paper (Cmd. 9158, S.O. 6d.) details of the arrangements whereby the work of the Overseas Food Corporation in Tanganyika would be taken over by a new undertaking to be known as the Tanganyika Agricultural Corporation.

Egypt. Mr Dodds Parker, Under-Secretary, Foreign Office, replying to a question in the Commons, said that in the period 2 April to 13 May there had been fifty-two attacks on British service personnel in the Canal Zone, as a result of which one British service man had been killed and four seriously injured. The total included two attempts at abduction which had been prevented by the Egyptian police. The British Consul at Port Said had protested on 18 April, and on 22 April and again on 13 May the Ambassador had reminded the Egyptian Foreign Minister that the Egyptian Government were expected to maintain law and order in the Canal Zone.

GREECE. 6 May—Army Reorganization. It was authoritatively disclosed that an army reorganization plan, involving a reduction in strength from 135,000 to 102,000 officers and men, would be put into effect during the month. It was pointed out that the order of battle would not be affected by the reduction and that the resultant economies in the defence budget would allow for long-overdue training of reserves. The plan had the full approval of N.A.T.O.

GUATEMALA. 17 May—Statement by U.S. State Department on shipment of arms from 'Soviet-controlled territory'.

18 May—Shipowner's denial of report (*see United States*).

INDIA. 10 May—Atomic Energy. Mr Nehru, Prime Minister, said in the House of the People that he welcomed the general approach of President Eisenhower to atomic energy control, but he rejected any suggestion that India's supply of raw materials should be controlled by an international agency. He added that the United Nations would have little success in tackling the problem of control as it was not fully representative.

12 May—South Africa. Mr Nehru, Prime Minister, condemned as 'a totally false and misleading allegation' Dr Malan's recent statement in the South African Parliament that he (Mr Nehru) had his 'eyes on Africa' (*see p. 296*).

14 May—Indian-French conference on French settlements (*see France*).

Kashmir. The Government issued a statement announcing that the President had issued a new order, replacing the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order of 1950, and applying practically all the material parts of the Constitution relating to the Indian Union to Jammu and Kashmir. Among the modifications were safeguards for Kashmir land reforms. The statement said that the Indian Supreme Court would exercise practically the same jurisdiction in Jammu and Kashmir as in other parts of the country and would be the final judicial authority to interpret the Constitution.

15 May—Mr Nehru, Prime Minister, speaking in a foreign affairs debate in the House of the People, said that India would accept an invitation to participate in an Indo-China settlement. He spoke in-

India (continued)

dignantly of India's exclusion from the international military tribunal for the review of sentences on Japanese war criminals.

Kashmir. Mr Nehru also said that the President's Order extending Indian jurisdiction over Kashmir only implemented the agreement reached between India and the State Government two years previously. India would stand by her international commitments on the Kashmir issue.

18 May—Mr Nehru, Prime Minister, speaking in the Council of States, suggested that the situation in Korea might be improved if the Governments of North and South, while continuing to function separately, accepted a loose federation with some kind of common structure as a temporary feature at the top. Referring to Indo-China, he said that it was useless to demand the withdrawal of French troops. The object was to get independence for Indo-China, and the withdrawal of foreign troops depended on a cessation of the fighting. At Geneva there were wise statesmen who were trying sincerely to find a settlement. There was no question of India's taking up some kind of high moral attitude blaming this and that. The Indian Government had no set proposals in these matters.

Foreign Missions. In a statement in Parliament, Mr Nehru said that if foreign missions created problems they were approached without religious bias. The Government did not welcome foreign missions in frontier regions because they were foreign, not because they were missions. Elsewhere their work was welcomed but they numbered thousands, and the Government did not want additions because that would lead to new social problems.

INDO-CHINA. 7 May—Dien Bien Phu. The French fortress fell to the attacks of the Viet-Minh after a siege of eight weeks and a final attack lasting twenty hours.

8 May—Gen. Navarre, French Commander-in-Chief in Indo-China, in a statement on the fall of Dien Bien Phu, said that the Viet-Minh had received enormous quantities of Chinese aid, and the French Command, which had built the camp at Dien Bien Phu to withstand one kind of Viet-Minh army, had had to face an entirely different proposition. He estimated the French Union casualties at 4,000 (killed and wounded), with 8,000 taken prisoner, and put the Viet-Minh losses at about 18,000 including 8,000 killed. He thought it not impossible that the new type of warfare might spread to the rest of the country. In that case he could see no other solution than the internationalization of the war, because France could not alone sustain a generalized offensive.

10 May—Dien Bien Phu. According to Viet-Minh radio 10,000 French Union soldiers were captured when the fortress fell, among them Gen. de Castries, the commander.

Delta. It was announced that the Viet-Minh had captured a post thirty miles south of Hanoi in the delta.

11 May—Gen. Navarre was instructed by the French Government to enter into immediate contact with the Viet-Minh Command to

arrange for the evacuation of French wounded from Dien Bien Phu. A message was accordingly dropped by an aircraft and a reply received later over the Viet-Minh radio agreeing to discussions.

The Viet-Minh were reported to be increasing their pressure in the Red River delta and to have captured a post six miles from Hanoi. Heavy air attacks were made by the French Air Force on Viet-Minh positions.

12 May—Both sides suffered heavy casualties in a battle twenty miles south-east of Hanoi.

13 May—Fierce fighting took place around Phuly in the delta, about thirty miles south of Hanoi.

14 May—By agreement with the Viet-Minh Command, French helicopters and light aircraft began the evacuation of wounded from Dien Bien Phu. The Viet-Minh had demanded, as a condition for the evacuation, the suspension of all French air operations—except for medical aircraft—within a radius of six miles of Dien Bien Phu and also along the road to Son La.

French protest *re* evacuation of wounded (*see Geneva Conference*). Viet-Minh forces renewed their attacks on a village south of Phuly in the delta.

16 May—**Delta.** The French Air Force struck at enemy concentrations near Phuly, and gave assistance to a besieged post near Thai Binh, sixty miles south-east of Hanoi.

Laos. It was learned that the Franco-Laotian column, which had reoccupied Muong Khoua, thirty-six miles west of Dien Bien Phu, had been compelled by enemy pressure to fall back on Nam Bac, fifty-five miles north of Luang Prabang.

17 May—The French High Command informed the Viet-Minh that it had decided to suspend the evacuation of wounded from Dien Bien Phu, and to resume air reconnaissance and bombing of Road 41 to Son La from midnight, pending the reaching of a satisfactory agreement. The reasons were stated to be the slowness and impracticability of the methods of evacuation by helicopter necessitated by the Viet-Minh failure to repair the airstrip; the Viet-Minh refusal to agree to control measures on Road 41 to prevent their profiting militarily by the truce to move fighting troops as well as wounded; and the Viet-Minh's arbitrary methods of selecting wounded to be evacuated, particularly in respect of the exclusion of Vietnamese.

The French High Command later broadcast new proposals for the evacuation of the wounded at Dien Bien Phu. These were: (1) repair of the airstrip to take Dakota aircraft, with the offer of the help of French engineers if required; (2) no limit to the rate of daily evacuation thereafter; (3) cessation of French air activity against the Dien Bien Phu-Son La road during the period required by the Viet-Minh to evacuate their own wounded, with mixed patrols (possibly including neutral representatives) to check that no other traffic was using the road; (4) Vietnamese wounded to be evacuated along with other French Union forces; (5) the selection of wounded for evacuation by a joint Franco-Viet-Minh committee. The French also asked for the right to fly in

Indo-China (continued)

medical supplies. They offered in return to supply the Viet-Minh with any medical supplies they needed and to fly any seriously wounded Viet-Minh to a Viet-Minh airfield or to treat them in a French hospital and return them later when healed.

18 May—The French High Command sent another delegation to Dien Bien Phu bearing their new proposals for the evacuation of the wounded.

The French High Command announced that a Viet-Minh army of 30,000 men was marching towards the Red River delta from Dien Bien Phu. French bombers had attacked the enemy convoys.

Road and rail communications in the delta were sabotaged in several places.

19 May—Gen. Ely, French Chief of Staff, accompanied by Generals Pelissier and Salan, arrived in Hanoi from France to investigate the military situation.

The Viet-Minh launched strong attacks on three posts in the delta and captured one of them, at Thuc Hoa, south-east of Vinh Chu, inflicting heavy losses on a Vietnamese battalion. The other two attacks, at Yen Phu, south of Phuly, and at An Xa, north-west of Thai Binh, were broken up by air intervention.

Dien Bien Phu Wounded. Eighty-four wounded were brought to Hanoi by helicopter from Dien Bien Phu.

The French Air Force continued their bombing attacks on Road 41 to Son La.

IRAQ. 12 May—Floods. Combined floods of the rivers Tigris and Euphrates were stated to have wiped out ten villages around Nasiriyah in southern Iraq, and to have made more than 15,000 people homeless. All cattle and summer crops had been destroyed.

ISRAEL. 9 May—It was announced that in a border clash at Khirbet Ayalin, in the Hebron area, three Israelis had been killed and two wounded. The army had also reported further incidents leading to the death of two Israelis and one Jordanian. It was claimed that in one of these, at Zububa, Jordanians were found harvesting on the Israel side of the border (*see also Jordan*).

The army also stated that thirty acres of barley in the Negev had been harvested by night and stolen by Jordanians from across the border.

10 May—The army authorities announced four more border clashes in one of which two Jordanians had been killed north of Tulkarm (*see also Jordan*).

Mr Sharett, Prime Minister, said in the Knesset that Israel was ready at any time to negotiate a settlement with her neighbours, but it must be with Israel 'within her present boundaries and without the introduction of Arab refugees'. He declared that Israel had always been ready to pay compensation to the Arabs for abandoned lands without making final peace an absolute condition for such payment. In reply to

Mr Byroade's speech of 1 May (see p. 299), he said that Israel could not close her gates to fellow Jews 'who might at any time knock at them', and he suggested that Mr Byroade's utterances expressed the tendency of the United States to show greater lenience to the Arab States, perhaps because Russia had been wooing the Arabs. The giving of arms to Iraq who was openly declaring her desire for revenge while peace-seeking Israel's request for military aid had so far been ignored, raised very serious questions as to the character of American security policy in the Middle East. In a reference to Jordan, he mentioned her refusal to confer with Israel in accordance with the armistice agreement, and asked the new Jordan Government 'to consider carefully whether the new wave of bloodshed is really what it wants'.

11 May—It was disclosed that Gen. Bennike, Chief of the United Nations truce supervision organization, had written on 30 April to the Israeli Prime Minister, urging him to instruct the Israeli delegation to return to meetings of the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission (from which they had withdrawn on 23 March).

16 May—Jordan complaints of border incidents (see *Jordan*).

17 May—Foreign Policy. The Knesset approved by 60 votes to 4, with 12 abstentions, a resolution expressing grave concern at the United States' decision to give arms to Iraq, and at 'the trend expressed in recent speeches by the United States Assistant Secretary of State, which was not in accord with the traditional friendship between America and the Jewish people returning to their homeland'.

Mr Sharett said the circumstances created by the United States arming Iraq and chiding Israel and by Soviet support of Arab hostility to Israel had caused Israel's enemies to gather more and more courage. Increased alertness on the external front was necessary.

ITALY. 6 May—Atomic Weapons. The Chamber approved a resolution, supported by all parties except the Monarchists and the neo-Fascists, proposing international control of the prohibition of chemical, biological, and atomic weapons, a general reduction of armaments, and the use of atomic energy for the benefit of humanity.

8 May—Communist Party. The Prime Minister's office announced that Communist journalists had been forbidden to enter Government ministries in future because of 'inconceivable insults' by *Unità*, the Communist paper. (These were contained in an article on 7 May in which it was stated that a telegram sent by Signor Scelba, Prime Minister, to the French Prime Minister on the fall of Dien Bien Phu was 'unworthy', an endorsement of colonial exploitation, and 'an extraordinary example of the servility of the men in power towards the Atlantic Powers'. The article also insinuated that Signor Scelba and Signor Piccioni, Foreign Minister, were connected with the Wilma Montesi scandal (the case still under investigation concerning the death of a young woman near Rome, in which the name of Signor Piccioni's son had been mentioned).

12 May—Trieste and the Balkan Pact. In a report to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, Signor Piccioni,

Italy (continued)

Foreign Minister, said there should be no talk of imminent solutions of the Trieste problem, and it would assist the cause if it were kept out of party polemics and were treated with 'responsibility and reserve'. He made clear the Government's view that any proposal to extend the existing tripartite Balkan Pact into a military alliance should require the prior consent of other N.A.T.O. members including Italy, seeing that Greece and Turkey were members of N.A.T.O., and he emphasized that Italy would favour more frequent consultation among N.A.T.O. States.

Neo-Fascism. The police seized in Rome a car carrying arms and explosives belonging to a Fascist terrorist organization—the F.A.R. (Fasci di Azio e Rivoluzionaria)—which was reported to have been responsible for several outrages. Seven persons were arrested.

JAPAN. 7 May—Defence. The House of Representatives passed two defence Bills providing for the creation of a nucleus of land, sea, and air forces for defence against aggression and for internal security, and for the appointment of joint chiefs of staff as well as a national defence council answerable to the Prime Minister. It was announced that the defence force during the current fiscal year would be increased from 120,000 to 165,000 men, and that four destroyers would be received from the United States under a lease-lend agreement.

Australia. The Cabinet approved an interim agreement with Australia under which Japanese pearl fishing vessels might operate in parts of the Arafura Sea in the coming summer on condition that they limited their catch to 600 tons of pearl shell.

14 May—United States. An agreement for the loan of American warships to Japan was signed in Tokio.

Mr Wilson, U.S. Secretary of Defence, arrived in Tokio on an inspection tour of the Far East.

JORDAN. 9 May—Border Clashes. It was announced that in a clash with Israeli forces on Jordan territory in the Bethlehem sub-district at least two Israelis were killed. There were no Jordanian casualties. Jordan had complained to the Mixed Armistice Commission. A later statement announced that further fighting had occurred in the same place and that in another incident on 8 May fighting had broken out after two Israeli soldiers had crossed the frontier near Zububa and had attempted to capture a Jordanian farmer harvesting his crops (*see also Israel*).

Tewfiq Abulhuda, Prime Minister, told the press: 'Jordan's policy with regard to the Jews will never change, and we shall never enter into negotiations leading to peace with them'. He denied reports that the previous Government had been subjected to pressure from Britain.

10 May—The Government announced that three more incidents had occurred that morning on the Israeli border, in one of which, in the Tulkerem district, four Jordanians had been killed. It was claimed that in each instance the Israelis had opened fire (*see also Israel*).

16 May—The Government lodged two complaints with the Mixed Armistice Commission, one alleging an attack by Israeli soldiers on shepherds in Jordan territory, and the other an attack by an Israeli patrol near Jabaa village in the Hebron area.

KASHMIR. 14 May—Application of Indian Constitution to Kashmir (*see India*).

U.S. Observers. It was stated in Srinagar that Indian objections to the presence of U.S. representatives in the U.N. observers group were being met: sixteen American observers and other civil staff were being progressively withdrawn as their terms expired, and only fourteen American observers were left on both sides of the cease-fire line.

15 May—Mr Nehru's statement *re* Constitution (*see India*).

KENYA. 6 May—It was officially stated that since the start of the security operation in Nairobi on 24 April more than 36,000 Africans had been screened and about 24,000 (about a quarter of the African population of Nairobi) detained for further investigation. Nearly one quarter of the latter were found to have forged documents.

8 May—Gen. Erskine said in a broadcast that the recent round-up could not by itself provide a permanent solution of the Nairobi situation. He hoped that the operation would show members of other tribes that they need no longer suffer from the terrorist domination of Mau-Mau in the city. Those detained would be graded into 'white, grey, and black', the white being released and allowed to return to their normal employment, the grey being gradually moved into works camps and given an opportunity to prove themselves not to be a danger to the community, and the black detained for a long time and subjected to rehabilitation measures.

10 May—Emergency Figures. Official figures showed that in the week ended 8 May sixty-nine Mau-Mau terrorists were killed, ten captured, and 135 detained. Security forces' casualties were three Africans killed and three wounded.

12 May—Mr Lyttelton on the Nairobi operation (*see Great Britain*).

17 May—Casualty Figures. Figures issued for the week ended 15 May showed that 121 Mau-Mau had been killed, 15 captured wounded, and 184 suspects detained. Security forces lost eight Africans killed and seven wounded.

KOREA. 17 May—Swedish and Swiss members complaint *re* Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (*see Geneva Conference*).

LEBANON. 6 May—Syria. The Syrian Prime Minister, Sabri El-Assali, had talks with President Shamoun and Abdullah Yaffi, the Prime Minister, mainly on the Arab-Israel question.

MALAYA. 13 May—Several students and one policeman were injured when the police charged to disperse rioting students in Singapore who were protesting against conscription for three years' training on a part-time basis.

Malaya (*continued*)

14 May—It was announced that the police had discovered two arms dumps about nine miles from Singapore.

The Governor declared 'white' 400 square miles of the east coast of Johore.

18 May—British Government's agreement to recommendations re Singapore constitution (*see Great Britain*).

MALTA. 7 May—The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh and their children left for Gibraltar.

18 May—Budget. Dr Azzopardi, Finance Minister, announced his budget for 1954-5 which estimated expenditure at £6,533,854 and revenue at £6,817,380, including £200,000 from the British Government, and £686,359 from the Colonial Development Fund.

NORWAY. 8 May—Five Norwegians were found guilty of espionage on behalf of Russia and received varying sentences of up to four years.

12 May—Unauthorized Flights. It was announced that the Government had protested to Russia and the United States about unauthorized flights by Soviet and U.S. aircraft over Norwegian territory.

ORGANIZATION FOR EUROPEAN ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION.

6 May—The Ministerial Council ended a two-day meeting having agreed (1) on the basis of a compromise settlement of the extreme creditor and debtor problem in E.P.U. and (2) that E.P.U. should be renewed for another year after 30 June.

The main points of the settlement provided that (1) accumulated debts should be partly consolidated (i.e. paid off over a period of time); (2) debtors would in future limit to a minimum their resort to E.P.U. resources (gold and dollars); (3) the rules of payment (i.e. partly in gold and partly in credit) would remain unaltered; (4) if Germany or other creditors should increase their surpluses with the Union, they would extend further credit but get some compensation from the E.P.U. dollar reserve; (5) the special position of Germany would be dealt with.

It was decided that the matter would be referred to the managing board of E.P.U. who would be asked to report back to the Council before 30 June.

France. Following criticisms by certain countries of the French position, the Council recommended (1) that as the French taxes raised 'difficult problems' for O.E.E.C. they should be abolished as soon as possible; (2) that the French Government should increase trade liberalization to 75 per cent by 1 November instead of the 65 per cent she had promised for that date.

Subsidies, etc. The Council recommended that the steering board should submit as soon as possible 'concrete proposals' for the abolition of artificial measures designed to aid exporters.

Convertibility. It was decided to set up a ministerial examination

group to examine the problems which would arise 'if a number of countries' re-established convertibility.

PAKISTAN. 7 May—Language Question. The Constituent Assembly accepted a resolution moved by Mr Mohammed Ali, Prime Minister, that Urdu and Bengali should be the official languages of Pakistan. Most of the members from West Pakistan, including several Ministers, stayed away from the session. They maintained that the late Mr Jinnah had laid down that Urdu should be Pakistan's official language.

15 May—East Bengal Riots. Serious riots occurred between Bengali and non-Bengali employees at the Adamjee jute mills at Narayanganj, near Dacca, in which more than 200 persons were reported to have been killed, and more than 200 injured. Troops were called in to restore order.

16 May—The Minister for Health and Labour and the Minister of State for Defence left Karachi for Dacca to investigate the situation. Troops were patrolling the area in Dacca and a curfew had been enforced.

Visit of Foreign Minister to Egypt (*see Egypt*).

17 May—East Pakistan Riots. It was announced that seventy-two arrests had been made in connection with the riots at Narayanganj. Mr Mohammed Ali, Prime Minister, said in a statement that according to Government information Communists and other elements inimical to Pakistan within and from outside the country had taken part in organizing and instigating the riots.

19 May—U.S.-Pakistan Pact. A treaty of mutual defence assistance between Pakistan and the United States was signed in Karachi. It included provision for the exemption from duty by Pakistan of any material imported in connection with the agreement or with any U.S. aid agreement with another country. Pakistan also agreed: to receive and accord facilities to U.S. personnel wishing to observe the progress of the aid furnished; to join in promoting international understanding and in maintaining world peace; to take such action as might be mutually agreed upon to eliminate the causes of world tension; to make a full contribution to its own defensive strength and the strength of the free world; and to co-operate with the United States in measures designed to control trade with nations threatening world peace. The agreement stated that Pakistan would use the aid exclusively 'to maintain its internal security, its legitimate self-defence, or to permit it to participate in the defence of the area or in United Nations collective security arrangements and measures. Pakistan will not undertake any act of aggression against any other nation'.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations said the agreement did not establish a military alliance and did not involve Pakistan in any obligation to provide military bases for the United States.

PARAGUAY. 9 May—Army Revolt. After a successful revolt led

Paraguay (*continued*)

by the Commander-in-Chief, Gen. Stroesner, the National Assembly accepted unanimously the resignation of Dr Chaves, and appointed Señor Tomas Romero Pereira, Chairman of the Colorado Party, to succeed him as provisional President. Estimates placed casualties in the revolt at twenty-five persons killed and about 100 wounded.

PERSIA. 11 May—U.S. Aid. It was announced that further U.S. financial aid amounting to \$9 m. had been allocated to Persia, bringing the total granted to the Zahedi Government to \$60 m.

U.S.S.R. It was announced that the Government had demanded the recall of the second secretary of the Soviet Embassy on the ground that he had interfered in Persian internal affairs.

12 May—Dr Musaddiq. The army court of appeal upheld the sentence of three years' solitary confinement imposed on Dr Musaddiq, former premier, and increased the sentence imposed on Gen. Riahi, former Chief of Staff, from two to three years' imprisonment with hard labour. Dr Musaddiq announced that he would make a further appeal to the Supreme Court.

POLAND. 17 May—It was learnt that the Government had sent a Note to the United States Government, alleging that on 13 May 'Chiang Kai-shek bandits' had seized a Polish ship in seas controlled by the American fleet and recalling another similar incident alleged to have taken place six months earlier. The Note demanded release of the ships, punishment of those responsible, and compensation, stating that 'the American authorities not only instigated the attack but the United States armed forces took a direct part in it'.

SAUDI ARABIA. 12 May—Saudi Arabian agreement with Mr Onassis *re* oil transport (*see Great Britain*).

18 May—Statement by Minister of Commerce on agreement with Mr Onassis for oil tanker fleet (*see Egypt*).

SIAM. 11 May—Gen. Luang Dej Dejpradiyudh, Chief of General Staff, said in Bangkok that Siam would not raise any objections if the nations of the free world should consider it necessary to use the country as a military base to combat Communist advance into the rest of south-east Asia. A prior agreement as to terms and conditions would have to precede the establishment of military bases.

SOUTH AFRICA. 19 May—Separate Representation of Voters Act. Opening a debate before a joint session of both Houses on the second reading of the Bill to revalidate the Act to place Cape Coloured voters on a separate electoral roll, Dr Malan said the Bill was brought in the hope of achieving a peaceful solution to an urgent problem, but if the Government were unsuccessful it would seek a mandate on the issue in the provincial elections. He said that, in giving evidence before the select committee, a majority of Coloured people (24 to 23) were in

favour of the Bill. In fifty years' time the Coloured people would outnumber the whites in the Cape by 2 m. That meant that the power of the whites would be lost.

Mr Strauss, leader of the Opposition, said the Opposition would fight the Bill at every stage. Government persistence with the measure would keep South Africa in a turmoil and further aggravate race relations. The overwhelming weight of evidence before the select committee showed that the Coloured people were against separate representation. If the Government persisted it would drive the Coloured people into alliance with the natives to form an anti-white front. Separate representation would be a diminution of Coloured rights and a breach of faith. Coloured voters were not a danger to white power as they represented only 3 per cent of the total electorate.

SPAIN. 16 May—Gibraltar. In an article in *Arriba* under the pen name Macaulay, Gen. Franco said that Queen Elizabeth's visit to Gibraltar had added to Anglo-Spanish differences and had 'united Spaniards in the sad decision that Gibraltar shall not go on living at the expense of Spain, that the smuggling and speculation which are centred there shall cease once and for all, and the Spanish area surrounding Gibraltar shall no longer be the scene of the licentious recreation of the British soldiery'. The article also stated that 'when Britain's position was grave, Mr Churchill promised the Spanish Ambassador the return of the fortress of Gibraltar if Spain remained neutral'.

SUDAN. 15 May—Khalafalla Khalid, Defence Minister, received Abdel Fattah Hassan, Egyptian deputy Minister for Sudan Affairs, who was passing through Khartoum. In a statement to the press Khalafalla Khalid referred to activities in the Sudan defence force which he considered contrary to the country's interest 'as they are opposed to the duties and allegiance of army officers'.

SWEDEN. 8 May—The Defence Ministry announced that unidentified aircraft had flown over Swedish territory in a westerly direction for the second time in ten days.

18 May—Uranium. Mr Erlander, Prime Minister, stated in the Upper House that Sweden's deposits of uranium were adequate to cover her present consumption for several thousand years. He estimated that if only one-third of shale deposits were worked at least 150,000 tons of uranium would be produced. He said Sweden could only afford research on the peaceful application of atomic energy on which she was spending 2.5 m. crowns (about £166,000) a year.

SYRIA. 6 May—'Talks on border tension with Lebanese President and Prime Minister (see *Lebanon*).

11 May—Press Control. Parliament passed legislation authorizing the Prime Minister to withhold licences from any press editors believed to have co-operated with the Shishakly regime. It also authorized the courts to suspend and cancel the licence of any newspaper inciting

Syria (*continued*)

revolt against the Government or modification of the Constitution by unconstitutional means.

TANGANYIKA. 12 May—Legislative Council. The Governor announced the decision to reconstitute the Legislative Council during the first half of 1955 so that it would include twenty-seven unofficial members—nine Africans, nine Europeans, and nine Asians. The official majority would be maintained, and the Council would consist of fifty-five members—all *ex officio* or nominated.

18 May—The Government proclaimed a state of emergency in the Northern Province following a raid across the border on 16 May by a gang of Kenya terrorists estimated at twenty strong. Police had shot one man and wounded and captured two others.

19 May—In further incidents involving eighteen terrorists two were killed and three wounded and captured.

White Paper on Tanganyika Agricultural Corporation (*see Great Britain*).

TRIESTE FREE TERRITORY. 11 May—The Trieste Communist Party called upon Trieste workers to protest against any Anglo-American plans for the partition of the Free Territory.

TURKEY. 6 May—U.S.S.R. A Note was sent to the Soviet Government in reply to their protest (*see 19 March*) against the Turco-Pakistan agreement. The Note stated that the pact was recognized as peaceful and defensive by all *bona fide* observers. Turkey regretted Russia's systematic remonstrances through diplomatic channels and every sort of propaganda. She wished her relations with Russia to be based on mutual respect, but Russia's actions showed that she did not share this attitude but wanted to impose her policies on Turkey.

17 May—New Government. Adnan Menderes, Prime Minister, announced his Government which consisted entirely of Democrats except for one Independent—the Minister of Health. The members included: *Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State*, Fatin Zorlu; *Justice*, Osman Shevki Chichedag; *National Defence*, Edhem Menderes; *Interior*, Namik Gedik; *Foreign Affairs*, Fuat Köprülü; *Finance*, Hassan Polatkan.

UGANDA. 13 May—Buganda. It was learnt that the three members who had resigned from the Lukiko committee elected to meet Sir Keith Hancock had written him a letter in which they had expressed their agreement with Sir Keith Hancock's letter to the Governor (*see p. 298*) and their incomprehension of why the Governor had accused them of misleading the Lukiko about the aims and scope of the mission. They claimed that the Governor had since agreed he was mistaken and they hoped he would publicly admit his mistake. They also said that they were not prepared to serve on the committee if the Governor insisted on replacing the Lukiko's nominees with his own. (This was a reference to

the Governor's veto on the election of two non-resident Baganda for whom he had said two persons on the reserve list should be substituted, and his instruction that the Lukiko should select two extra Saza chiefs and a clan head to make the committee more representative.) They asked also that certain vague statements issued by the Colonial Office, such as 'Uganda shall be developed as an African state' and 'proper safeguards for minorities' should be clarified so as to provide the committee with a suitable basis for discussions.

UNITED NATIONS

Disarmament Commission

13 May—A sub-committee of the Disarmament Commission, consisting of delegates of Britain, France, the United States, Russia, and Canada, began discussions in private in London.

UNITED STATES. 6 May—St Lawrence Seaway. The House of Representatives approved U.S. participation in the building of the St Lawrence seaway with Canada and the use of federal funds for the purpose. (The Bill had already been approved by the Senate).

7 May—Taft-Hartley Act. The Senate voted to send back the Administration's Taft-Hartley amendments to committee.

Western Note to Russia (*see U.S.S.R.*).

Geneva Conference. Mr Dulles, Secretary of State, declared in a broadcast that the following steps seemed important in regard to Indo-China: (1) the French should give greater reality to their intention to grant full independence to Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, thus taking away from the Communists their false claim to be leading the fight for independence; (2) there should be greater reliance on national armies, who would be fighting in their own homeland; (3) there should be greater free world assistance. He added that 'the present conditions (in Indo-China) do not provide a suitable basis for the United States to participate with its armed forces'. The issue might be clarified at the Geneva Conference. If the French can conclude a settlement on terms which do not endanger the freedom of the peoples of Vietnam, this would be a real contribution to the cause of peace in south-east Asia'.

In regard to Korea, Mr Dulles promised that 'we shall not surrender at the council table at Geneva the freedom for which so many fought and died'. If the Communists would accept a really free election 'then I think that Korea could be unified'.

'For America'. The formation of a new political organization called 'For America' was announced in Chicago. Its purpose was stated to be to combat super-internationalism and interventionism in both Republican and Democratic parties. Those associated included Mr Hamilton Fish and Gen. Robert A. Wood, a member of the America First Committee formed in 1940.

10 May—Security. The White House announced the decision to establish within the Department of Justice a new Division of Internal Security.

United States (*continued*)

The Attorney-General sent to Congress the Defence Facilities Bill, under which the Government would be provided with new authority to bar subversives from strategic factories primarily engaged in normal civilian production.

Bipartisanship. Mr Truman, former President, said in a speech in Washington that bipartisanship in foreign policy could be effective only when there was an overwhelming sense that national interests were being put first. False charges against the Democratic Party of 'twenty years of treason' made co-operation difficult. The President might not be able to suppress irresponsible members of his party, but he could disavow them. He urged the President to give the people leadership.

11 May—Indo-China. Mr Dulles said at a press conference that he hoped the three Associated States of Indo-China would join any south-east Asian defence system which might be formed, but whether they did so depended on the views of their three Governments, and on the views of the French and some other participants.

12 May—Russian denial that U.S. prisoners from Korea had been sent to Russia (*see U.S.S.R.*)

13 May—St Lawrence Seaway. President Eisenhower signed the St Lawrence Seaway Bill.

14 May—Agreement with Japan for the loan of warships (*see Japan*).

15 May—Reports of Franco-U.S. discussions on Indo-China (*see Geneva Conference*).

16 May—Mr Dulles, Secretary of State, speaking at Williamsburg, said 'so far this year we have negotiated in good faith with the Soviet rulers in relation to the use of atomic energy and in relation to Germany, Austria, Korea, and now Indo-China. Always there is a consistent pattern. Never will they relax their grip on what they have'. Nevertheless, the United States would persist in their efforts to negotiate.

Anti-Communist Propaganda. The United States Information Office announced that it was launching 'a world-wide propaganda offensive' to expose the spurious intellectual and ideological appeals of Communism. The decision had been taken in accordance with a directive of President Eisenhower and the National Security Council to unmask and counter hostile attempts to frustrate U.S. policies.

East-West Trade. Mr Stassen, Director of the Foreign Operations Administration, said in his report to Congress on the Mutual Defence Assistance Control Act, 1951 (the Battle Act) for the period June-December 1953, that in setting a new direction in respect of east-west trade the Government recognized (1) that maintaining commercial ties between the free world and the Soviet *bloc*—compatible with security requirements—might have positive advantages during the existing period of tension; (2) that there were risks that such trade might lead to undue reliance on the Soviet *bloc* as a trading partner; (3) that it was important to encourage trade within the free world by reducing trade barriers, especially when the effect would be to decrease the reliance of the free world on the Soviet *bloc*. The report challenged the popular assumption that the Soviet Union was seeking a large expansion of its

foreign trade, and said that even if recent trade agreements reached their proclaimed goal, which it considered doubtful, Russia's trade would still fall short of the figures for 1948 and 1952. The report drew a distinction between the trade policies of Russia (which accounted for about 30 per cent of the Soviet *bloc's* total trade with the free world) and of her European satellites. It said there was no evidence of any reversal in the decline of the satellites' trade with the west, and it was therefore possible that Russia 'was merely shifting to itself a better percentage of all *bloc* trade with the rest of the world'. The report discussed the increased marketing of oil by Russia and warned the free world not to look to her as a dependable supplier of oil. It stated that Russia had three long-term objectives in its trade policy with the free world: (1) to assist the Soviet *bloc* to become more powerful and less dependent on the free world; (2) to drive wedges between free-world nations at every opportunity; (3) to increase the free world's reliance on the *bloc* for markets or supplies, thus making it more vulnerable to Soviet pressure. The report estimated that the free world's exports to China for the second half of 1953 had fallen to \$111 m. against \$159 m. for the first half. The embargo on strategic goods to China had been maintained by unanimous agreement.

17 May—Racial Segregation. The Supreme Court in a unanimous judgement declared that racial segregation in education was unconstitutional. Specific decrees arising out of the judgement would be formulated in October.

Guatemala. The State Department announced that it had reliable information that a shipment of arms had been sent to Guatemala from 'Soviet-controlled territory'.

Polish protest against seizure of ship by Chinese Nationalists in American-controlled waters (*see Poland*).

Army-McCarthy Dispute. President Eisenhower sent a letter to the Secretary of Defence, Mr Wilson, asking him to instruct employees in his department not to give to investigators of the Senate sub-committee information relating to conversations or communications within the executive branch of the Government. He said he directed 'this action so as to maintain the proper separation of power between the executive and legislative branches of Government'.

18 May—Guatemala. The owners of the Swedish ship *Alfhem* which was reported by the State Department on 17 May to have carried a cargo of arms to Guatemala stated in Stockholm that there had been no munitions on board the ship. A cargo picked up at Stettin in Poland was only 'mixed freight'.

19 May—South-east Asian Security. Replying to press questions about the formation of a south-east Asian defence pact, President Eisenhower said the United States was going ahead. 'The members of the British Commonwealth most directly involved in south-east Asia are Australia and New Zealand. The defence system can be created with them and with Asiatic countries. It may not be all that is desired but it will be something.'

U.S.-Pakistan military aid agreement (*see Pakistan*).

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United States (continued)

East-West Trade. Speaking in the Senate, Senator McCarthy accused Britain of planning to ship conventional weapons of war to the Soviet *bloc* and demanded that the United States should cease giving aid to any ally sending arms to the enemy 'who is presently directing the war in Indo-China'. Mr Stassen, director of Foreign Aid Administration, said later that Senator McCarthy's statement was 'fantastic, unbelievable, and untrue'. The ban on the shipment of weapons to the Soviet *bloc* was still being imposed by the United States, Britain, and the other free countries.

U.S.S.R. 6 May—Turkish reply to Soviet protest (*see Turkey*).

7 May—**Western Note.** Identical Notes in reply to the Soviet Note of 31 March were received from Britain, France, and the United States. The Note began by recalling the efforts already made by the three Governments to secure international agreement on disarmament, and by expressing their determination to continue their efforts and their hope that the Soviet Government would make a constructive contribution.

The Note rejected the Soviet proposal for a European collective security pact, declaring that even if amended to include the United States the proposal did not provide any foundation for genuine security and could only prolong division and insecurity in Europe. The addition of such an organization to the United Nations 'would not only be useless, but also dangerous, because it would inevitably tend to destroy the authority of the United Nations'. The Note also rejected the Soviet suggestion that Russia should join N.A.T.O. It described the proposal as 'unreal' and 'contrary to the very principles on which the defence system and the security of the western nations depend', and it pointed out that N.A.T.O., which was much more than a military organization, was founded on the principle of individual liberty and the rule of law, that its members' means of defence having been pooled to provide security against Soviet military preponderance, it was wholly defensive, and that there was free and full exchange of information between members. It stated that as all decisions of N.A.T.O. were taken by unanimous consent, the Soviet Union by becoming a member would be able to veto every decision and none of the member-States was prepared to allow this. The three western Governments considered that 'European and world security will not be promoted by the disruption of defensive associations of like-minded States and the substitution of new illusory security organizations', and they remained convinced that the only way to remove the sense of insecurity was through 'step-by-step solutions of individual problems'.

The Note recalled that the Soviet Government had refused to consider either the western Powers' proposals for Germany submitted at the Berlin conference, or their proposals for reinforcing European security, or their proposals regarding Austria which were based on the western acceptance of the Soviet text of every unagreed article of the draft treaty. The three Governments refused to accept the Soviet contention that western plans for E.D.C. were responsible for the

(see

division of Europe or for aggravating the risk of war. The division of Europe was caused in part by the Soviet refusal to contemplate the reunification of Germany on the basis of free elections. 'In these circumstances the federal republic of Germany cannot be allowed to remain without any means of defence when the eastern zone of Germany, as its leaders openly acknowledge, possesses substantial armed forces.'

The Note concluded by suggesting that the Soviet Government could give 'concrete proof of their good intentions' by joining with the western Governments in (1) restoring to Austria full sovereignty and independence; (2) seeking a lasting and acceptable solution of the German problem; (3) reaching early agreement on general progressive, balanced, and supervised disarmament; (4) working for solutions of Far Eastern problems at the Geneva Conference; (5) conforming their behaviour in the United Nations to the principles of the Charter.

Death Penalty. It was announced that the Supreme Soviet had decided to reintroduce the death penalty for murder.

British request for withdrawal of diplomats (*see Great Britain*).

8 May—Great Britain. Commenting on a speech by Sir Winston Churchill on 30 April in which he had urged 'links' with the Soviet Union and the Russian people to convince them of Britain's desire for their prosperity and happiness, *Tass* stated that 'leading Soviet circles' shared his desire for improved relations.

10 May—British statement on Soviet armed strength (*see Great Britain*).

11 May—Persian demand for recall of Soviet official (*see Persia*).

12 May—United States. The Foreign Ministry sent a reply to a U.S. Note of 5 May which had alleged that American prisoners of war had been sent to Russia from Korea. The Russian reply denied the allegation.

13 May—Great Britain. The Government requested the withdrawal of the British Assistant Military Attaché from Moscow on the ground that he had engaged in espionage. The request followed a British request for the withdrawal of two Soviet attachés from Britain.

19 May—Great Britain. Mr Seward, a British industrialist, announced that a number of British companies had secured a £7 m. contract to supply textile machinery to Russia.

YUGOSLAVIA. 7 May—Trieste. President Tito outlined in a press interview new proposals for a settlement of the Trieste problem according to which most of Zone A would go to Italy, and the remainder with Zone B to Yugoslavia. The new frontier would be guaranteed by the Powers, who would also undertake not to support any future claims by either country. Italy and Yugoslavia on their side would undertake to submit the new arrangement to the Security Council. He referred favourably to suggestions that Yugoslavia should receive western help to construct a port near Kopar (Capodistria) and indicated that he would be prepared to support Italy's adhesion to the Balkan Pact if the Trieste issue were solved.

11 May—British statement on President Tito's proposals *re* Trieste (*see Great Britain*).

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